



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/530,237

04/11/2005

Stephane Leonard

13332-00001-US

1275

23416

7590

07/20/2009

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP

P O BOX 2207

WILMINGTON, DE 19899

EXAMINER

CASTELLANO, STEPHEN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3781

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/20/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/530,237	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LEONARD ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> /Stephen J. Castellano/	<b>Art Unit</b> 3781	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 12, 14 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 12, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

Art Unit: 3781

Claim 10 stands withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on October 2, 2008.

Claims 9, 11 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 1-8 and 10, 12 and 14-15 are pending. Claims 1-8 and 12 and 14-15 will be treated according to their merits.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-8, 12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. There is no support for stating that said flange and said thread comprise a one piece unit. Both the flange and the thread could have multiple pieces as originally disclosed.

**This is a new matter rejection.**

Applicant adds to claim 1 a limitation which incorporates the word “comprise.” “Comprise” designates open language rather than closed language. Either one of the flange or the thread could comprise a one piece unit. The flange is not limited to being a one piece unit. The thread is not limited to being a one piece unit. Also, the flange and the thread together are not limited to being a one piece unit. Claim 15 incorporates a similar limitation and will be similarly interpreted.

Art Unit: 3781

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kleppner in view of Stangier.

Re claim 1, Kleppner discloses a fuel tank (hollow body) for motor vehicles with a plastic flange with a pipette (accessory) mounted for a fuel return line. Kleppner discloses the invention except for the thread on the periphery of the flange. Stangier teaches a flange for a hollow body made of two parts: (1) holding cover 316 and (2) male screw thread ring 358. It would have been obvious to add a thread to Kleppner to provide a tight fitting closure by making the plastic flange of Kleppner a two part assembly with cover and threaded ring to seal the opening in the fuel tank (hollow body).

Re claim 2, ring (union nut 356) of Stangier is capable for holding the flange in place with the hollow body. It would have been obvious to add this ring to seal the opening in a liquid tight manner.

Re claims 5 and 15, , the combination of a hollow body (fuel tank) and flange is disclosed by Kleppner.

Re claims 12 and 14, Stangier also teaches the compressible seal 334 and the ring (union nut 356) is mounted to the hollow body wall indirectly through its connection to flange through the threaded engagement with threaded ring 358 of the flange. It would have been obvious to add the seal to make the joint fluid tight to prevent the escape of liquid fuel or vapors.

Art Unit: 3781

Claims 2, 5-6, 8, 12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stangier in view of Kleppner.

Stangier discloses the invention except for the plastic material of the flange. Kleppner teaches a flange of plastic material. It would have been obvious to modify the material of the flange to be plastic in order to manufacture the flange more easily by molding, to provide a lighter weight, less expensive material and to provide a part with the other advantages of plastic like easily cleanable, more durable, more resilient, and more crack resistant, etc.

Claims 3, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kleppner in view of Stangier as applied to claims 1 and 5 above, and further in view of Straetz.

Re claims 3 and 4, the combination discloses the invention except for the plastic material of low permeability to gases and liquids and one of the specific plastics mentioned in claim 4. Straetz teaches a low permeability plastic for a barrier made of polyamide. It would have been obvious to modify the composition of the plastic to be polyamide in order to provide a fuel barrier to effectively eliminate permeability of gases and liquid fuel.

Re claim 7, the combination discloses the invention except for the two shells of the fuel tank, the multilayered construction of the shells and the welding of the shells. Straetz teaches the two shells of the fuel tank, the multilayered construction of the shells and the welding of the shells. It would have been obvious to modify the construction of the tank to be two multilayered shells welded to each other to provide easier molding of identical or similar shaped halves because the profile of the half shell is approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  the height of the tank and the interior of the shell is accessible and capable of being modified before final assembly over a closed or blow molded design and the welding can be preformed to insure a fuel tight, leak proof seam.

Art Unit: 3781

Applicant's arguments filed October 2, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Re claim 1 and the Kleppner in view of Stangier rejection, the statement of rejection has been changed to explicitly state that the flange is modified to become two parts a cover and a ring with a thread. Applicant should appropriately respond to this modification in the next response.

Applicant's arguments filed May 18, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has not considered the breadth limitation added to independent claims 1 and 15 and has not considered that "comprise" defines open language. There is no support for stating that the flange and the threads are a one piece unit.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Stephen J. Castellano/ whose telephone number is 571-272-4535. The examiner can normally be reached on increased flexibility plan (IFP).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony D. Stashick can be reached on 571-272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3781

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Stephen J. Castellano/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3781

sjc